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EMBASSY OF THE U.S.A., CAIRO-EGYPT

MORNING PAPERS.

THURSDAY August 19th, 1948.

The Palestinian situation as reviewed by the Arabic press.

Al Misri, the Wafdist daily, publishes a report drafted by Dr Yussuf Heikal, Chief of the Palestine Office in Amman and Major of Jaffa, concerning the Arab refugee problem.

In his report Heikal says that the number of the Palestinian Arabs who were driven out of their homes is 700,000. He estimates that 55000 Arabs had to leave Safed, Taboria, Samah, and Al Nasra. 100,000 had to leave Haifa, 60,000 the northern villages, 50,000 the Coastal region between Haifa and Jaffa; 100,000 Jaffa; 45,000 Lydda and Ramallah; 100,000 from the villages near Jaffa; 100,000 from Jerusalem; 40,000 from the villages near Jerusalem; and 50,000 from the southern villages between the Jerusalem hills and the Galilee.

Out of this number, only 250,000 crossed the Palestinian border into neighbouring Arab countries. The rest have stayed in Palestine in the fields and the desert. Most of the refugees had to leave their homes without taking away with them any money, food, or clothes. Some of the refugees have been afflicted with dangerous diseases, and some of the women had to prostitute themselves to buy food for their young, says Dr. Heikal who advances the following solution to the problem:

- 1 - Direct aid. Each refugee needs at least four pounds monthly. Two million pounds monthly are needed to feed and clothe the refugees.
- 2 - Some of the refugees should be given work. Government officials, teachers, and technicians among the refugees could be employed by the Arab countries. The Transjordanian government has already given jobs to some of the refugees.
- 3 - The men refugees who are physically fit should be recruited into a special battalion.
- 4 - The Barclays, Ottoman, and Arab banks have money deposited with them by some Arab refugees. Those banks should be induced by the Arab states to pay the persons who had deposited money with them before they left Palestine all or part of the money.

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5 - The Arab countries should finally invade the parts captured by the Jews, and after re-occupying them the refugees may be returned to their homes.

Nokrashi Pasha makes a statement
on Palestine.

In a statement to the press, Nokrashi Pasha described the situation in Palestine as "very bad". Al Sayed Bahat Eldine Tokan Bey, Transjordanian Minister in Egypt called on the P.M. yesterday morning and after the meeting ended made a statement to the press in which he said that he had talked to Nokrashi Pasha about the situation in Jerusalem which was fast deteriorating. Asked whether H.H. King Abdullah of Transjordan had received an invitation from General Franco to visit Spain, Tokan said that King Abdullah had received the invitation but of course a visit to Spain while the situation in Palestine was so bad, was out of the question.

Azzam Pasha, Secretary General of the Arab League, made a statement to Al Misri in which he said that the Jews were determined to make Jerusalem the capital of the so-called state of Israel, but the Arabs were absolutely ready to counteract any step which may be taken by the Jews in that direction.

Blissful ignorance.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Khashaba Pasha was asked by the Arabic Press if he had any statement to make about Palestine. His reply was: "I know nothing about this particular question. I recommend you to ask either the Prime Minister or Azzam Pasha". Asked by Al Ahram if it was true that there was a ministerial crisis and that he was the cause of it, he replied: "I do not know".

Harmful propaganda.

Under the above heading, Al Misri refers again to Akhbar El Yom's article of August 14th in which it said that some Arab leaders believed that the establishment of a federal union in Palestine was more dangerous than partition. Al Misri says that it was right in warning in a previous article against the danger arising from the publication of articles similar to that of Akhbar El Yom. The Egyptian Gazette's editorial on the subject showed what confusion could be caused by bad propaganda. "Our soldiers did not enter Palestine where they fought and some of them died, and where they are still stationed (seeing that they have not yet accomplished their sacred mission), in order to hear in the end that a unified Arab state in Palestine would be more dangerous than partition", writes Al Misri. "It was natural for the British to be pleased at such views seeing that they were the first to advocate partition. They now think that the Arabs are beginning to change their attitude. But nothing could be further from the truth. The Arabs meant what they said about saving Palestine from Zionism. They will never abandon this attitude. A stop must be put to such harmful propaganda".

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The Arab Parliamentary conference
meets to-day in Lebanon.

The Arabic press gives some prominence to the meeting of the Arab Parliamentary Conference which is due to take place to-day at Lebanon. The Egyptian delegation is composed of Hussein Heikal Pasha, Ali Zaki Al Orabi Pasha, and Abdel Haloom Mahmud.

The Arab League may mediate between
Pakistan and Hindustan.

Al Misri reports that the Arab League may mediate between Pakistan and Hindustan.

Egypt may raise the subject of
the Sudan at the U.N.

Al Ikhwan alleges that the Egyptian government intends to raise the Sudan question at the coming session of the U.N. Assembly.

King's interest in Al Azhar.

Al Ikhwan writes: The Rector of Al Azhar received at his offices yesterday the private secretary of His Majesty King Farouk. They talked among other things about Al Azhar's activities abroad and the possibility of its helping the Islamic world".

"Half a victory".

Under the above heading, Al Ahram writes: "Fares Al Khoury believes that no good will come out of the Arabs submitting the Palestinian case to the U.N. General Assembly. Many Arab leaders share this opinion. Some of them have even advocated Arab withdrawal from the United Nations. They believe that to withdraw from the U.N. would be good strategy because it gives the Arab countries free hand to act. But we do not agree with this viewpoint. We strongly recommend the Arab countries not only to abandon the thought of withdrawing from the U.N. but also to try and be represented every International conference or committee. Our perseverance is bound to pay good dividends in the end.

"Moreover, some of the European and American countries know little about the Arab countries. They have a distorted picture of their mind of Arab civilization. The presence of Arabs at international conference will help make these countries change their opinion".

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Al Ahram then goes on to say that the Arabs should take full advantage of the dispute between Russia and the democracies and try to recruit the help of some countries in connection with the Palestinian question.

Egypt's reply to Bernadotte concerning Shortcock's invitation to the Arabs for direct negotiations.

Al Ahram scoops other Arabic papers by publishing the text of Egypt's reply to Bernadotte concerning Shortcock's invitation to the Arabs for direct negotiations. This subject was covered in former issues of the Daily Review.

Political committee may meet before end of the month.

Al Assas reports that the Arab League Political Committee is expected to meet before the end of this month.

The government versus the Suez Canal Company.

Al Assas reports that it has been decided by the Egyptian Government to take legal action against the Suez Canal Company which refuses to have 40 % of the members of its board of directors men of Egyptian nationality, in accordance with the Companies law No.1938 of the year 1947.

It is interesting to note that Al Assas reported recently that the Company in question maintains that the companies law should not apply in its case because its board of directors is located abroad.

Politics. Interesting theory advanced by President of Lower Chamber.

President of the Lower Chamber Hamod Gouda writes an article for Al Assas in which he says that the Egyptians should not press the British to evacuate Egypt because the more they press them the more the British imagine they can bargain and exact a heavy price for their evacuation. The British are really losing a lot of money by maintaining a British garrison in the Canal Zone. Sooner or later they will realize that it is cheaper to evacuate Egypt, says Maitre Hamod Gouda.
